

the intent of not playing—you know, bickering over politics and getting intransigence because you don't get everything you want.

And so after a lot of labor and a lot of hard work and a lot of discussion, we shook hands in the Oval Office about 10 minutes ago. And Charlie is going to head up to the Hill. I've spoken to the Speaker. And he's going to take—we're going to work on the language of the agreed-upon amendment. And it'll give the Members something positive to vote for.

I want to thank Charlie Norwood for his hard work, for his—the southern gentleman that he is—for his willingness to work with

the White House. It's a good signal for a lot of folks in Capitol Hill.

Now, Mr. Norwood.

[*At this point, Representative Charlie Norwood made brief remarks.*]

*The President.* Get to work up there on the Hill, Charlie. Thank you very much. I appreciate—[*inaudible*].

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Representative Norwood.

## Statement on Northern Ireland

*August 1, 2001*

This morning I telephoned Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern to state my strong support for the package of proposals their Governments released today to the political party leaders in Northern Ireland.

I believe the package is fair and that it charts the way forward in areas central to the Good Friday agreement. The package allows the people of Northern Ireland to sustain devolved government and establish a police service with broad public support. It provides further steps for normalizing the security presence in Northern Ireland and assuring the stability and integrity of the Good Friday agreement's political institutions. The proposals also recognize that a commitment to democratic governance and normalized security requires all

parties to renounce violence and deal decisively with paramilitary weapons. Consequently, substantial progress on decommissioning is an essential part of today's package.

In my conversation this morning, I commended the Prime Ministers for their continuing leadership on behalf of peace. I reiterated to them that the United States stands ready to help in any way that the Governments and the parties find useful. I now urge all parties in Northern Ireland to reflect carefully on today's proposals and to do everything in their power to make permanent the progress of the past 3 years by taking the next steps to implement the Good Friday agreement.